REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 3, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-17, 19, 21-60, and 77-97 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 19, and 77-93 are amended to correct typographical errors. Claim 97 is added to recite "wherein said means for determining determines if the connection between said end element and said mobile station via said radio network controller is to be released based on at least one of a state of the mobile station, movement of the mobile station, or communications between the mobile station and the radio network controller". Support for the limitations of new claim 97 is found at page 10, lines 17-20 and page 12, line 24 to page 13, line 27 of the specification.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because the Examiner states that "end station" should be replaced with --mobile station--. The Examiner's suggested correction has been implemented in the above amendments. Accordingly, the objection to claim 1 should now be withdrawn.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 12-14, 16-17, 19, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,574,473 (Rinne).

Claims 9-11 and 24-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Rinne in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,443,875 (Blausten).

Independent claim 1 recites "said network element comprising means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released",

Independent claim 1 recites "said network element comprising means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released", "said network element comprising a radio network controller", and "wherein connections are established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element".

Rinne fails to disclose the above recitations because Rinne fails to teach or suggest that a radio network controller (RNC) determines if the connection between and end element and a mobile station, which connection is made via the RNC, is to be released. As described in more detail below, Rinne merely discloses that a terminal or base station determines when a handover is required and initiates a handover routine.

Rinne discloses a method and system for controlling a radio communications network and a radio network controller. More specifically, Rinne relates to handovers between radio network controllers inside a generic radio network (see col. 4, lines 34-36, of Rinne). According to Rinne, an anchor controller is specified and a fixed radio network specific connection between a radio network controller RNC[i] and base stations BS[a(i) ... k(i)] is established (col. 7, lines 46-49). Radio connections are then set up between radio network controllers RNC[i] and mobile station MS[α] and radio links are set up between base stations BS[a(i) ... c(i)] and mobile station MS[α] (col. 7, lines 50-53). The handovers between base stations within the radio network controller are carried out in step 615 (col. 7, lines 53-55).

If a mobile station receives a strong signal from a base station of an external radio network controller, an RNC to RNC connection is added (col. 7, lines 56-59). A radio network specific connection between a radio network controller RNC[j] and base stations BS[a(j) ... f(j)] is established, radio connections are set up between radio network controllers RNC[j] and mobile station MS[α], and radio links are set up between base stations BS[a(j) ... f(j)] and mobile station

removed. However, there is no indication that the RNC itself includes means for determining if the connection between the mobile station and the end element via that RNC is to be released, as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

Figs. 11 and 12 of Rinne describe examples of how handovers are effected. In Fig. 11, an anchor controller aRNC requests the old radio network controller oRNC to release resources (see col. 11, lines 15-20). There is no disclosure regarding where the determination is made to release the resources. Furthermore, since the request comes from the active RNC, the old RNC can not be considered to have "means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released", "wherein connections are established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element", as recited in independent claim 1.

The Examiner states that this limitation is disclosed at col. 6, lines 4-14, col. 8, lines 23-31, and col. 10, lines 7-18; and Fig. 7 of Rinne. However, Col. 6, lines 4-14, of Rinne merely define that the old RNC is a radio network controller that is active before the handover. This section further states that more than one RNC may be active simultaneously. Accordingly, this section fails to state that the RNC itself includes "means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released", as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

Col. 8, lines 23-31 merely describes the cellular system having a switching center MSC, radio network RAN, radio network controllers aRNC and bRNC, base stations BS1 to BS4 and a terminal TE. There is nothing in this section which discloses "means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released", as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released", as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

Col. 10, lines 7-18, of Rinne discloses that after a handover occurs, an old RNC may be removed. However, there is no disclosure of whether the old RNC or any other RNC has "means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released", as expressly recited in independent claim 1. Rinne is silent regarding which element makes a determination to release resources.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Rinne.

The Examiner cites Blausten as disclosing an example of a "means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released". However, this section merely states that a delay in the processing of a request for termination of a connection. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion that an RNC includes a "means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released" , "wherein connections are established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element", as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is also allowable over Rinne in view of Blausten.

Dependent claims 2-17, 19, 21-60, and 77-97, each being dependent on independent claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as is independent claim 1, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

New claim 97 recites that the means for determining, which is in the radio network controller, determines whether the connection between the end element and the mobile station via

the radio network controller should be released. There is nothing in Rinne or Blausten that discloses teaches or suggests that the determination to release the connection is made in the radio network controller via which the connection is made, as now expressly recited in claim 97. New claim 97 further recites that the determination is made based on one of movement of the mobile station, state of the mobile station, or communications between the mobile station and the radio network controller.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By 

Alfred W. Froebrich
Reg. No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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